

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This claim listing replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~  
an operating section that instructs a change of a target vehicle speed;  
a vehicle speed detecting section that detects a vehicle speed;  
a control section that controls a driving force of the vehicle so as to coincide the  
vehicle speed detected by said vehicle speed detecting section with said target  
vehicle speed;  
a releasing section that releases the control of the driving force by said control section  
under a predetermined condition; and  
a setting section that:  
stores the target vehicle speed immediately before the changing operation of  
the target vehicle speed; and  
sets, immediately before the release, the stored target vehicle speed as a  
resumption target vehicle speed that is to be implemented at a time of  
resumption of the control of the driving force by said control section,  
~~wherein, when the control of the driving force by said control section~~  
~~is released during the target vehicle speed changing operation of target~~  
~~vehicle speed, said setting section sets a target vehicle speed in just~~  
~~before the changing operation of target vehicle speed to the target~~  
~~vehicle speed at the time when the control of driving force by said~~  
~~control section is resumed operation.~~
3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 2, wherein, when the control of the driving force by said control section is released during the target vehicle speed changing operation ~~of target vehicle speed,~~ said setting section sets an actual vehicle speed at the release time to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming ~~when the control of the~~ driving force by said control section ~~is resumed.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 2, wherein, when the control of the driving force by said control section is released during the target vehicle speed changing operation of ~~target vehicle speed operation~~, provided that a deviation between the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming and an actual vehicle speed is greater than or equal to a predetermined value ~~or above~~, said setting section sets the stored target vehicle speed ~~as a delayed to the change instruction by said operating section to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming when the control of the driving force by said control section is resumed.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

an operating section that instructs a change of a target vehicle speed;

a vehicle speed detecting section that detects a vehicle speed;

a control section that controls a driving force of the vehicle so as to coincide the vehicle speed detected by said vehicle speed detecting section with said target vehicle speed;

a releasing section that releases the control of the driving force by said control section under a predetermined condition; and

a wherein said setting section that sets a vehicle speed, delayed in following the vehicle speed delayed to the change instruction by said operating section to the section, as a target vehicle speed at the time of resuming when the control of the driving force by said control section is resumed section, when the control of the driving force by said control section is released during a changing operation of a target vehicle speed and when a time duration during which provided that the time where the target vehicle speed changing operation of target vehicle speed has lasted been performed continuously is greater than or equal to a predetermined time or above duration.

6. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 2, wherein said setting section sets the stored target vehicle speed ~~as a delayed to the change instruction by said operating section to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming when the control of the driving force by said control section is resumed section~~, provided that an increasing operation of the target vehicle speed has been performed during up-hill running.

7. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 2, wherein said setting section sets the stored target vehicle speed ~~as a delayed to the change instruction by said operating section to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming when the control of the driving force by said control section is resumed section~~, provided that a reducing operation of the target vehicle speed has been performed during down-hill running.

8. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 2, wherein said releasing section releases the control of the driving force by said control section when a brake is operated.

9. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 2, wherein said releasing section releases the control of the driving force by said control section when an interruption operation of transmission of the driving force to a driving wheel is performed.

10. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

operating means for instructing a change of a target vehicle speed;

vehicle speed detecting means for detecting a vehicle speed;

control means for controlling a driving force of the vehicle so as to coincide the vehicle speed detected by said vehicle speed detecting ~~means to~~ means with said target vehicle speed;

releasing means for releasing the control of the driving force by said control means under a predetermined condition; and

setting means ~~for setting~~ for:

storing the target vehicle speed immediately before the changing operation of the target vehicle speed; and

setting, immediately before the release, the stored target vehicle speed as a resumption target vehicle speed that is to be implemented at a time of resumption of the control of the driving force by said control means, a vehicle speed delayed to the change instruction by said operating means to a target vehicle speed at the time when the control of the driving force by said control means is resumed, when means the control of driving force by said control means is released during a during the target vehicle speed changing operation of target vehicle speed.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle ~~according to claim 11, wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time resuming time comprises the steps of:~~ comprising the steps of:

instructing a change of a target vehicle speed;

detecting a vehicle speed;

controlling a driving force of the vehicle so as to coincide said detected vehicle speed with said target vehicle speed;

releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed under a predetermined condition;

storing the target a target vehicle speed change immediately in just before the changing operation of the target vehicle speed; and

when the control of driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is released during the changing operation of target vehicle speed, setting, immediately before the release, the stored target vehicle speed as a resumption target vehicle speed that is to be implemented at a time of resumption of the control of the driving force, to the target vehicle speed at the time when the control of the driving force is released during the for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed changing operation.

13. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11,~~ claim 12, wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming time comprises the steps of:

when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is released during the target vehicle speed instructing step, ~~changing operation of target vehicle speed,~~ detecting a vehicle speed at the time; and

setting the detected vehicle speed to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming ~~when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, claim 12, wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time of resumption ~~resuming time~~ comprises the steps of:

calculating a deviation between the target vehicle speed at the time of resumption and an actual vehicle speed when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is released during the changing operation of the target vehicle speed, ~~calculating a deviation between the target vehicle speed at the time and an actual vehicle speed~~ speed; and

setting the stored vehicle speed as a delayed to the target vehicle speed change instruction to the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming ~~when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed~~ speed, when said deviation is greater than or equal to a predetermined value or above.

15. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, comprising the steps of:

instructing a change of a target vehicle speed;

detecting a vehicle speed;

controlling a driving force of the vehicle so as to coincide said detected vehicle speed with said target vehicle speed;

releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed under a predetermined condition;

~~wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the resuming time comprises the steps of~~:

~~measuring the time where~~ a time duration in which the changing operation of the target vehicle speed has been performed continuously; and

setting the vehicle speed, delayed in following speed delayed to the target vehicle speed change instruction to the instruction, as a target vehicle speed at the time a time of resuming ~~when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed~~, speed, when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is released during the instructing step, and when the measured time duration is greater than or equal to a predetermined time or above duration.

16. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, claim 12, wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming time comprises the steps of:

judging whether or not a target vehicle speed ~~not an~~ increasing operation of ~~target vehicle speed~~ has been performed during an up-hill running; and  
setting the stored target vehicle speed ~~as a delayed to the target vehicle speed change instruction to the target vehicle speed~~ at the time of resuming ~~when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed speed~~, when the target vehicle speed increasing operation ~~of target vehicle speed~~ has been performed during the up-hill running.

17. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, claim 12, wherein said step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming time comprises the steps of:

judging whether or not a target vehicle speed reduction operation ~~of target vehicle speed~~ has been performed during a down-hill running; and  
setting the stored target vehicle speed ~~as a delayed to the target vehicle speed change instruction to the target vehicle speed~~ at the time of resuming ~~when the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed is resumed speed~~, when the target vehicle speed reduction operation ~~of target vehicle speed~~ has been performed during the down-hill running.

18. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, claim 12, wherein said step of releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed under the predetermined condition comprises the steps of:

detecting whether or not a braking operation is performed; and  
releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed, when the braking operation is performed.

19. (Currently Amended) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to ~~claim 11~~, claim 12, wherein said step of releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed under the predetermined condition comprises the steps of:

detecting whether or not an interruption operation of a transmission of the driving force to a driving wheel is performed; and  
releasing the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed, when the interruption operation of the transmission of the driving force ~~to a~~ to the driving wheel is performed.

20. (New) A constant speed running control apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said setting section sets the stored target vehicle speed as a target vehicle speed at the time of resuming of the control of the driving force by said control section, provided that the time duration during which the target vehicle speed changing operation has lasted is greater than or equal to a predetermined time duration.

21. (New) A constant speed running control method for a vehicle according to claim 12, wherein the step of setting the target vehicle speed at the time of resuming comprises the steps of:

measuring a time duration during which the target vehicle speed changing operation has been performed continuously; and  
setting the vehicle speed as a target vehicle speed at the time of resuming of the control of the driving force for obtaining said target vehicle speed, when the measured time duration is greater than or equal to a predetermined time duration.